AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (original) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering which is installed in a steering shaft of a vehicle and in which a male shaft and a female shaft are fitted to each other to be incapable of mutual rotation and capable of sliding, characterized in that:

at least one set of torque transmitting members are interposed between at least one set of grooves formed on the outer peripheral surface of said male shaft and on the inner peripheral surface of said female shaft to be extended in the axial direction to face each other; and

at least one projection formed to be axially concentric with at least one of said grooves extending in the axial direction on the outer peripheral surface of said male shaft is fitted in at least one of said grooves extended in the axial direction of said female shaft through a gap in the radial direction.

2.   (original) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to Claim 1, wherein the number of sets of said torque transmitting members in the circumferential direction is the same as the number of said projections in the circumferential direction.

2

3. (currently amended) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said female shaft comprises at an end thereof an inward deformation portion which is deformed inward.

4. (currently amended) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said torque transmitting member comprises at least one set of spherical bodies and at least one set of columnar bodies.

5. (new) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to Claim 2, wherein said female shaft comprises at an end thereof an inward deformation portion which is deformed inward.

6. (new) A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering according to Claim 2, wherein said torque transmitting member comprises at least one set of spherical bodies and at least one set of columnar bodies.